

REMARKS

Claims 2-8 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as described in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. Claims 1 and 4-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as described in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Claims 2 and 3 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims, as described in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. Claim 2 is the only independent claim.

The specification has been amended to place the application in correct idiomatic English and to correct minor typographical errors.

Attached hereto are replacement formal drawings for Fig. 2 and Fig. 22. In particular, in item 11 of Fig. 2 "storage" has been changed to --holding-- and in item 10, the word "transmission" has been changed to --communication--, to correspond with the disclosure. In Fig. 22, item "43" has been changed to --44--, whereas, item "44" has been changed to --43--, to correspond with the written description.

It is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejections of claims 1 and 9-22 are moot, as the claims have been cancelled. Cancellation of claims 1 and 9-22 is not an acquiescence that the claims are not patentable over the prior art of record. On the contrary, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims in a continuation application.

Claim 2 has been amended to be in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 4 has been amended to be dependent upon newly amended claim 2. The remainder of the amendments to claim 2-8 generally place the claims in better U.S. form without narrowing the scope of the claims as originally presented.


In light of paragraph 5 of the Office Action, and in light of the amendments to claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-8 are now in condition for allowance.

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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